ARBITRATION METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR REDUNDANT CONTROLLERS, WITH OUTPUT INTERLOCK AND AUTOMATIC SWITCHING CAPABILITIES

Abstract of the Disclosure

An arbitration mechanism is provided for arbitrating between redundant controllers having outputs electrically connected together and provided as input to at least one device under control. The arbitration mechanism includes logic for automatically determining which controller of the redundant controllers is active controller, and a hardware output interlock for the redundant controllers to ensure that output controlled by only the active controller is enabled as input to the at least one device. The arbitration mechanism also includes logic for monitoring the active controller for failure, and upon detection of failure, for automatically switching active control to another controller of the redundant controllers transparent to the at least one device.